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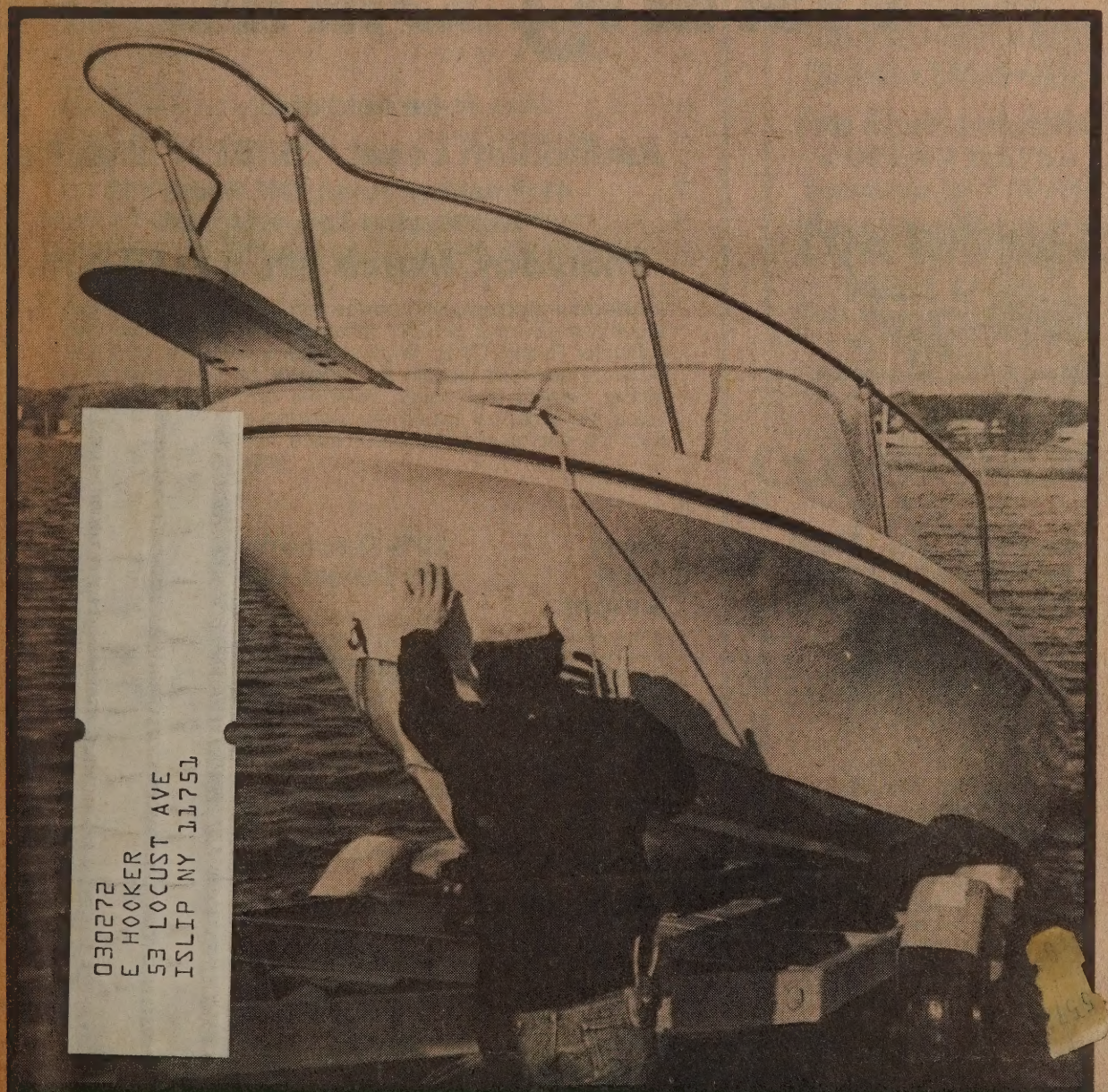

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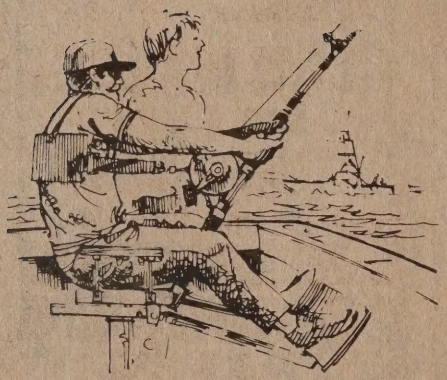

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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

VOL. 13, NO. 9 MARCH 2, 1978

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1977 at Montauk

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Capt. Charlie Soares breaks the axle of a trailer to launch a boat, as discussed in his article *"Trailering"*, the first part of which begins on page 16 of this issue.

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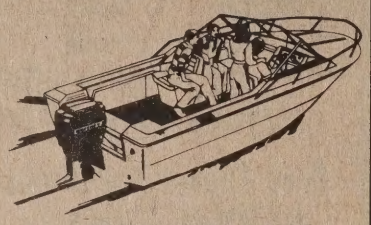

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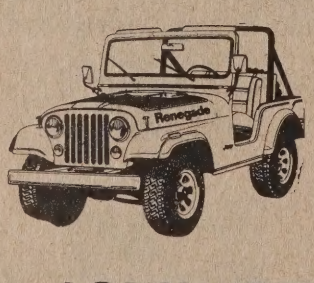

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★ EDITORIAL ★

L.I.F. SUPPORTS BILL A-8417/S-5704

When State Senator Bernard C. Smith introduced Bill S 5704, the New York State Fisheries Management Bill, there was a quick and vocal response, much of it in opposition, but much also favoring the legislation.

We read the legislation carefully and found most of it to be commendable, but with confessed cowardice, we did not publicly take a stand. Since elements of both commercial and sport fishermen were against it, we said to ourselves that our marbelized brains had missed something of great importance. "Can fifty million Frenchmen be wrong?" Clearly, we needed to delve into this thing in more depth. So off we went. We inquired by phone, we read, we asked questions, and finally we met with Senator Smith and several of his aids. Our procrastination was not a tragic error since we were assured that it would be sometime before the bill would come to a final vote. But, here we are in 1978 and final action on the bill gets closer and closer. Time to get off the old fence!

We began to notice subtle attitudinal changes about the bill back in early December, 1977. By late January, 1978, the sport fishing community seemed to be accepting the bill's philosophy more and more, and several commercial fishermen's groups have recently offered favorable comments on the bill.

We think that the original antagonism towards the bill was emotional and found its roots in what has, on many occasions, been a faltering relationship with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation. There is, unfortunately, a case for the historical mistrust between the DEC and fisherpeople. Thus, the thought of giving the Commissioner comprehensive powers really frightened lots of us.

Our discussions with Senator Smith have been both enlightening and reassuring. We have been impressed with the Senator's motivations, sincere concern for fisheries management, and candid explanations. We recognize certain weaknesses and concerns that are structured within the legislation, but the Senator has accepted criticism from all concerned groups and in several cases directed his aides to investigate changing the language of the bill so that it might avoid several pitfalls.

We believe that a fisheries management law in the State of New York is necessary. During the past few decades our knowledge about marine resources has grown enormously and each day seems to bring to light new concerns and the potential need for new controls and regulations. The population of Long Island has become so large that competition for resources between the sportsmen, commercial interests, and the consumer have become so keen that frequently all sides have lost sight of the primary goal: resource management.

The Legislature traditionally decided upon all such matters, but within a time-delay frame of up to several years. Crisis situations require crisis reaction. Thus, a machinery is needed wherein the agencies of the State holding primary responsibility for marine resources can act and react fast enough to prevent a problem from becoming unredeemable.

The Long Island Fisherman supports this legislation, but we feel compelled to point out several of our concerns. Our apprehension focuses on three (3) portions of the legislation. First, we believe that the Commissioner's proposed new powers need some checks and balances. Check and balances are the "salt and pepper" spices of government. Our Founding Fathers believe that it might not always be possible to foresee all aspects and implications of certain laws and government function. However, tardy action or no action at all might leave the country vulnerable to exploitation both from within and without. The brilliance of checks and balances lies in making one branch or agency of government accountable to another(s). Thus, as long as one group must answer to others, severely damaging and self-serving action is less likely to occur.

We do not believe that non-emergency powers proposed for the Commissioner will present any dangers. First, public hearings, which are mandated by the bill, would provide ample opportunity for the public to organize and express their opposition. Second, a Commissioner unresponsive to public outcry, would not likely remain the Commissioner in the light of public and legislative opposition.

Emergency proposed powers would be something else again. We recognize that there are times when immediate action is necessary and thus the time consuming process of public review would have to take a back seat to the welfare of the people of the State of New York. Still, checks and balances are possible. We recommend that the Commissioner should need the approval of two-thirds of the members of the Citizen's Advisory Council before emergency action is possible. The approval could be sought at formal meetings or on the telephone with written confirmation following the verbal

(Continued on page 13.)

IMPORTANT NEWS ITEM

The Long Island Fisherman and representatives from surf fishing clubs have begun a dialogue with the Long Island State Park Commission to help resolve some ambiguities inherent in, and to gather answers to questions pertaining to, the new permit system. A meeting with Mr. John Sheridan, General Manager for Parks and Recreation is planned for early March. If any surf fishing club would like to send a representative to this meeting, or receive information about what is happening, please call Doc Muller at L.I.F., 725-4200.

Pass It On...

NOTICE ON BOOK ORDERS

To those subscribers who recently ordered "Fiberglas Rod Making," we apologize for the delay. Our supplier, Charles Scribner & Sons, ran out of stock and is awaiting delivery from Winchester Press, with a promised delivery to LIF in mid-March.

BOATING

SEWANHAKA POWER SQUADRON SAFE BOATING COURSE

The Sewanhaka Power Squadron is teaching a free basic boating course through Evening Adult Education at three high schools in central Nassau County.

Registration at Elmont High School on Wednesday evening, March 8, 1978 and at Sewanhaka and New Hyde Park High Schools on Thursday evening, March 9, 1978—all starting at 7:45 p.m.

FLOTILLA 13-3 ATLANTIC BEACH BOATING COURSE

Flotilla 13-3 of the U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary will begin a six lesson course in Boating Safety and Seamanship at the Atlantic Beach Coast Guard Station, Daytona St., Atlantic Beach.

The course will start on Tuesday, March 7 at 8 PM, and is open to the general public. There is a modest fee for materials. For further information, call: Ed Caracciolo, (516) 432-4731.

Also being offered is a course in Advanced Seamanship Training to become a Charter Captain, for up to six passengers. This course will begin on Tuesday, March 14 at 8 PM, at the Atlantic Beach Coast Guard Station. For more information, call: Capt. Sel Kagan, (516) 431-0453.

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HOW-TO SPECIAL FEATURE
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MAKING A ROD BUILDING JIG

In this corner:

Walter Beattie

You just spent a small fortune on parts for that dream rod you always wanted to build for yourself and you want to be assured it will have the best workmanship you are capable of. A jig is the answer, but that means more money for the only rod you ever intend to build.

Finding myself in this predicament a few years ago, I decided to build my own jig. It worked so well and made the rod building such a pleasure, that I have rebuilt three of my old favorite rods and am planning a few new ones.

I am not a carpenter, nor was I planning to create a major project in building the jig, so what you see diagrammed is the quick and dirty version, made from scrap pieces scrounged from around the house. If you fancy yourself an innovative carpenter, there are at least a half-dozen ways this conceptual plan can be improved on.

The concept is to create a track, in the form of two dowels, upon which a movable thread carrier is mounted, as are the movable side supports. As you build the rod you move the carrier and supports to the best position along the rod. The carrier mounts four large spools of different colored thread with individual tension adjustments. The carrier can obviously be adapted to more colors, or the smaller spools if you desire. The important thing is you mount the colors you want, set the tension and you never have to play with it again. The carrier can even be placed on the outside of the supports instead of between them—especially useful for wrapping the rod tip.

The parts illustrated are two, four-feet-long, five-eighth inch diameter wooden dowels for the tracks.

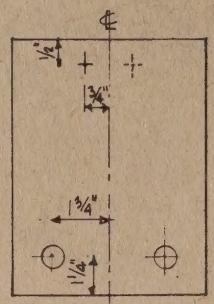
Two, two-by-six by eight-inch side supports and one, two-by-three and one-half by eight-inch carrier, all cut from a scrap piece of (nominal) two-by-six lumber, twenty-four inches long.

Four, three-sixteenth inch diameter stove bolts, four-and-one-half inches long, with two metal and two neoprene washers per bolt and one square and one wing nut per bolt.

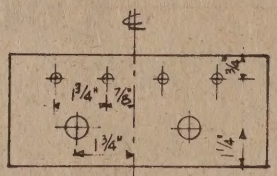
Four, two-and-one-half inch wheels, cut from one quarter-inch plywood, with mounting screws and washers.

One round, telescoping curtain rod, with positive grasp type support brackets and mounting screws.

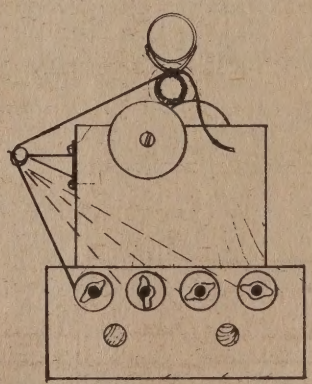
Diagrams one and two show the hole locations for the side supports (two) and carrier. The dowel holes **must** align and be **snug** on the dowel, yet permit movement. Pre-drill a piece of scrap and try the dowel for proper fit before drilling the final version. Clamp the final pieces together and drill two or more together to assure alignment.

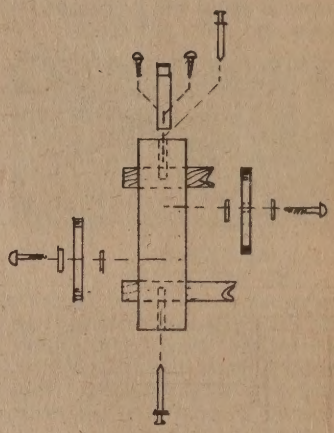


1:Side Support



2: Carrier


5:Sectional View- Thread Over Curtain Rod


3:Side Support Assembly

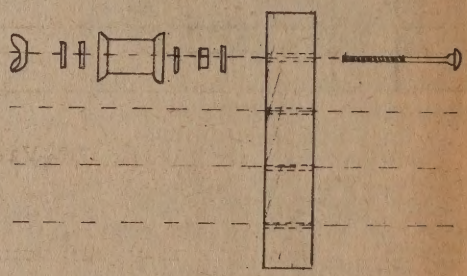
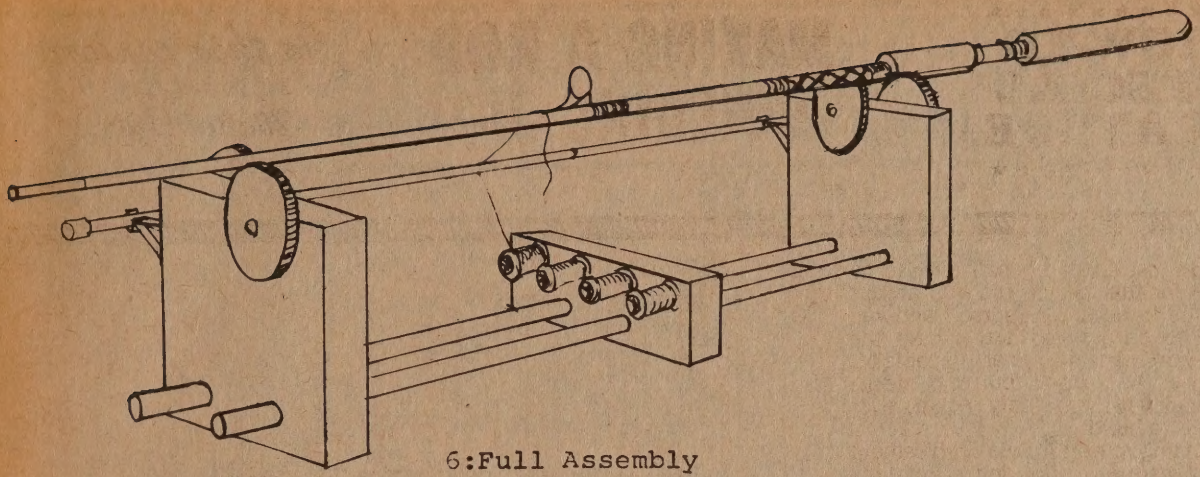

4:Carrier Assembly

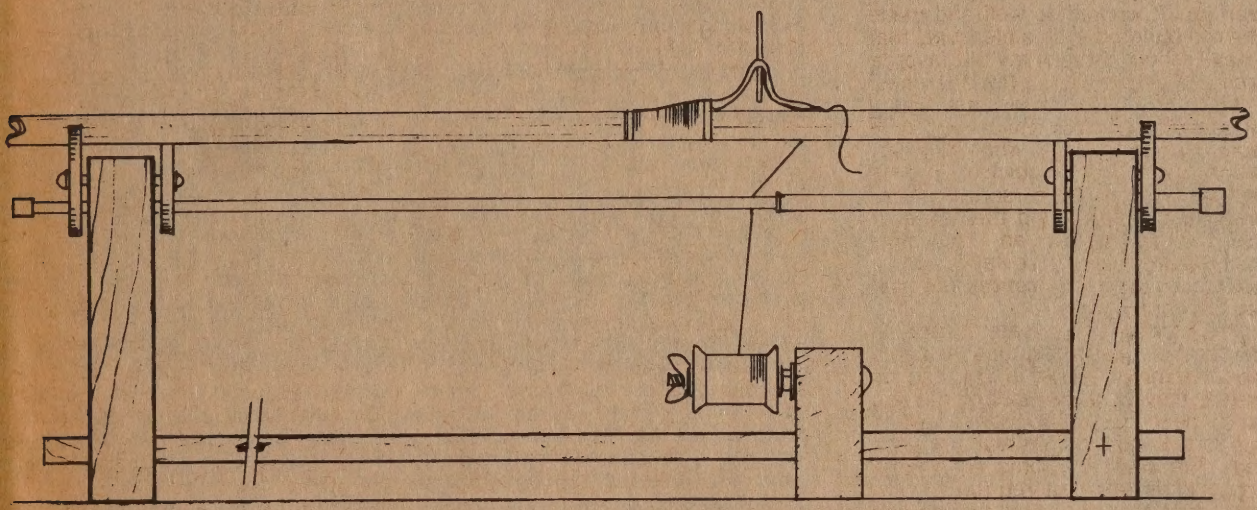
Diagram three is the side support assembly seen from above. The wheels (two per support) were made by using a saw-tooth drill bit made for cutting large holes. The wheels are then "tired" with rubber bands to protect the rod finish. The diagram also shows how one support—left or right—can be fixed on the dowels by drilling through the support into the dowel and inserting a two-headed nail, a small dowel, or anything that will serve to pin the support in place.

Diagram four is the top view of the carrier with an expanded view of the hardware for the four spool mounts. Tension on the spool works the same as the drag on a spinning reel. Tightening the wing nut increases the friction between the two neoprene washers and the face of the spool. I used stove bolts, but bolts with a finer thread would give finer adjustment.

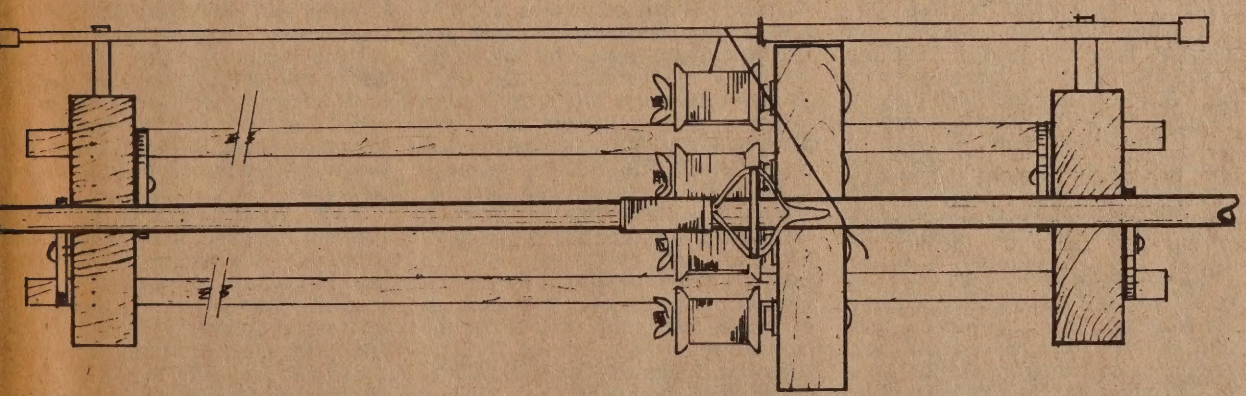
The curtain rod serves as a line guide, presenting the thread uniformly, regardless of which spool is being stripped and at an angle that permits you to see how the thread is



6:Full Assembly



7:Front View Of Full Assembly



8:Top View Of Full Assembly

laying on the wrap (see Diagram five). The curtain rod telescopes as you move the side supports.

Diagram six shows how it all goes together. It comes apart just as readily, for ease of storage.

Adjustments and/or modifications may be desired, depending on frequency and type of use. If you propose to build one-piece rods, consider longer dowels, or two sets of dowels—long and short—or you can do what I do, which is to hang a length of line from the cellar ceiling to serve as a third, remote support for the end of the rod. If the tension control is not fine enough for frequent use, try springs or rubber bushings. (There is no precise way to describe the tension as different washers, spool materials and bolts are going to give different results. Just play with it until it works.) If cutting out the wheels is a problem, store-bought toy or model airplane wheels will work, or if you are only building one rod, V-shaped cuts at the support tops will retain rod position, but will not give as smooth a turn, etc., etc., to the limits of your imagination and ingenuity.

FISH TALK
with Dr. William A. Muller

BERGALL
Tautogolabrus adspersus

BERGALL, CUNNER, PERCH, blue perch, and chogset are all names that are used by fishermen for this wily bait-stealer of the bottom feeding clan. The bergall is most commonly found on rocky or rough bottoms, around pilings, and wrecks. Therefore, it is commonly caught by fishermen seeking blackfish. It is not difficult to confuse a young blackfish with a bergall since the body shapes, coloration, and habits of the two fishes are so similar. However, when blackfish grow larger they develop distinctive coloration and body contours that make it very difficult to confuse the two. The easiest way to tell the two apart is by examining the teeth. Blackfish have molar-type teeth, whereas the cunner has pointed teeth.

DESCRIPTION. Bergalls have fairly deep bodies and the sides are rather flat. The base of the tail, or peduncle, is broad—typical of rugged, strong, but slow-swimming bottom species. The top of the head is flat and the snout tapers to a small mouth. The upper jaw protrudes beyond the lower jaw and the lips are thick—similar to a blackfish. There are several rows of teeth and these teeth are sharp, aiding the bergall in its bait stealing act. The dorsal fin contains about eighteen spines and the tips of these spines are sharp, presenting a hazard to the fishermen when they are being removed from the hook. The rear of the dorsal fin is soft and contains four to five rays.

COLORATION. The color of bergalls is very variable because there are many pigments present and because they can modify their pigment distribution in response to the color of the bottom on which they are feeding. However, several colors are more prominent than the rest. In general, the upper (dorsal) portion of the body is brown or reddish-brown; the sides are bluish or bluish-green which may approach aquamarine. There may be noticeable greys, olive-greens, or white tones and these colors will be mottled. Bergalls that are caught in very deep water may be almost red; fish over shallow rocky areas may be rather uniform brown or green brown, and the coloration of the young is blotchy.

SIZE. Generally, the bergalls that are caught in our local waters are small and they rarely exceed six to ten inches in length and about one-half pound. However, bergalls taken in deeper water, particularly around ocean wrecks and deep water bottom structure, are much larger. We have seen cunners that checked in at several pounds and a few monsters that we are certain weighed four or five pounds. Admittedly, these specimens were not put to the test on a scale, but they were unusually large. The largest specimens that we have seen have been taken while fishing for sea bass.

YEAR-ROUND RESIDENTS: Bergalls do not migrate very much and are more or less permanent residents at a given piece of bottom. They may not feed in the coldest part of the winter, preferring instead to become more or less inactive. During the warmer months they may spend much of their time in bottom crevices or swimming slowly close to the bottom between the plant growth. The bergalls that frequent more shallow inshore water (less than twenty feet) may commonly swim a short distance into slightly deeper water during the coldest and warmest part of the season.

DO NOT SCHOOL! We may be cutting some fine hairs here. How does one distinguish between a loosely clustered group that hangs around a piece of bottom structure and a well-organized, tight knit school? In the final analysis, they do not usually respond as a group to environmental stimuli in a well-organized fashion. That may be hard to believe since we have witnessed the response of cunners to a loaded chum pot as you have and from our vantage point, the response seemed to be very groupish.

MENU. Although most fish eat a variety of foods, they are nonetheless fairly fussy, preferring only a limited number of items on the menu. Cunners are true omnivores and they are willing to eat just about anything and everything that won't kill them. They will eat barnacles, small mussels, amphipods, shrimps, young lobsters, crab or pieces of crabs, along with any kind of bivalve mollusk or crustacean. They will also eat small coelenterates, worms, sea urchins, any small fish that they can catch up with, and a variety of plants. We can't list each and every item on the cunner's menu, because if we did the page would read like the menu of an exclusive restaurant. You know the kind we mean—you can go through several cocktails and half the evening just reading the menu!

SPAWNING: The spawning season begins in late spring and continues into early summer. The eggs float and thus drift about with the action of the tides and waves. At about 70° F., the eggs will hatch in about one-and-a-days. They grow slowly, but their appetites are keen from the beginning.

AGE-GROWTH RELATIONSHIPS. Notes on the relationship of age to length in light of personal observations about the size potential of the species in deep water are revealing.

Age (Yr.)	Length (Inches)
1	1½-2
2	3-4
3-5	4-5
4	5-6
5	6-7
6	7-8½
7	9-10
8	10-11

Females are usually larger than males of the same age. The species reaches sexual maturity during the third summer and at that time, they may be between 2-3/4 and 3-1/2 inches long. Now if we extrapolate the above growth and age relationship out to larger sizes, we might easily conclude that a fifteen inch specimen might be about twelve to fourteen years old. That's a remarkably long life span for such a small fish. Small fish usually are heavily preyed upon by larger fish so that even if they can potentially live to a ripe old age, they do not usually make it!

RANGE. These tiny fish have a very extensive range. They are commonly found from Newfoundland to south Jersey, but can occasionally be found as far south as Chesapeake Bay. Thus, the bergall is a cool water fish. In fact, the lower limit of temperature which will favor spawning is about fifty-five to fifty-seven degrees Fahrenheit. We know very little about the changes in abundance that may be characteristic of the species throughout its range. It is however, generally very abundant as any bottom fisherman will tell you without hesitation. Still, there have been a few periods when they seemed to significantly decline in numbers in specific portions of their range. For example, during the early 1950s they were very scarce in the Massachusetts area.

ONE MAN'S FOOD IS ANOTHER'S POISON! Did you know that once upon a time, bergalls were a favorite recreational and commercial species. There's just no accounting for the odd bounce of the ball! In the late 1800s, the bergall was considered a panfish for saltwater anglers in much the same way that sunfish is the delight of millions in freshwater. The commercial catch was once as high as 300,000 pounds during the 1870s. The size of the catch fell steadily, so that by 1947 no significant commercial catch has been consistently noted. Small commercial catches have been inconsistently reported in the years since 1947, but it clear that public tastes have changed. Today, the bergall is considered a trash fish with

(Continued on page 27.)

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Sinker Bouncing

with Matt Ahern

Early March Flounder

I'm a great guy for rushing the season. When friends ask me along on experimental fluke fishing trips in early May, they find me willing enough. Should they desire my company while engaging in a little codfishing in late October or early November, I'll gladly tag along—even if I have misgivings.

But no one finds it necessary to sell me on the idea of giving early March flounder a whirl. Usually, it's the other way around. Then I'm the one desperately trying to sell the merits of early March flounder to assorted fishing buddies, most of whom share the annoying desire to wait until spring is officially here. Sometimes I succeed, but most times, I don't. Which is something I can't understand, for early flounder fishing can be very good indeed.

Perhaps I can sell you on the worth of early March flounder fishing. I hope so, for I certainly intend to try.

First of all, let me be honest with you. Don't expect outsize fish in early March. This seems like a devil of a way to sell something, I know, but I won't do business any other way. Nor will I ever attempt to con you.

I believe you'll catch fish, all right, but I don't believe you'll catch any monsters. Actually, I don't think you'll catch anything larger than one pound. I've rarely had luck with truly large flounder until sometime in April. But if you're interested in half to three-quarter pounds, they're out there waiting for you.

First, let's get tackle requirements out of the way. If you have been flounder fishing before, you already have the necessary equipment; but if this is your first flounder season, I'll give you a quick rundown on what's needed.

Because winter flounder are caught in sheltered areas, light tackle should always be used for most enjoyment. What you spend for this is entirely up to you, but fortunately the best tackle for flounder isn't expensive. You have two choices: a light boat rod, equipped with a matching revolving spool reel filled with eight to ten pound good quality monofilament line; or a light to medium-weight spinning rod with matching open-faced spinning reel filled with six-pound mono.

My outfit is a light, six-foot spinning rod and open-faced reel filled with the recommended six-pound mono. I use this weight when skiff fishing. When fishing from shore, I increase the mono test to ten—sometimes more if I'm fishing a particular "sticky" area such as Shinnecock Canal. Using heavier mono enables me to salvage some of my fouled terminal tackle—most times.

You'll find such an outfit extremely sensitive to even the lightest-biting flounder, and at this time of year because of the chilled water, flounder seldom nip at the bait. They are more likely to inhale it quietly, giving no inkling of their presence. Light spinning tackle can detect this easily, but using the less sensitive boat rod means by the time you become aware of what's going on, the flounder will most likely have the hook deep in its innards, making hook removal difficult—which can be a problem if the day is nippy and your fingers are numb.

Incidentally, let me say something here in regard to this. If you find most of your fish are deeply hooked, it means but one thing. You are letting your attention wander. In other words, you are asleep at the switch. To avoid this annoying problem, keep feeling for the fish at frequent intervals—raise your rod at least once a minute. Remember, as stated before, flounder seldom nip at the bait at this time of year. They'll do so in April, but not early March unless the water has reached freakishly warm temperatures, which is something that seldom happens.

As with all bottom fishing, rigging is no problem and the cardinal rule is this: the less hardware, the better. Be advised to stay away from flounder spreaders. They may keep your hooks apart, all right, but they foul on the least obstruction and are notorious for gathering copious amounts of weed and debris. Needless to say, you won't find experienced flounder fishermen using them.

The standard flounder hook has always been the long-shanked Chestertown, better known to all fishermen as "the flounder hook." The most commonly used size for sheltered waters is nine or ten, with nine preferred. Actually, there isn't much difference in size except that the steel wire of a number nine is slightly heavier.

Because flounder are a bottom feeding fish, your hooks must be there to do any good. Experienced fishermen know this, of course, and therefore they make sure to tandem-tie their hooks. When tied by this method, you are assured your bait is always within reach of prowling flounder.

Here's how to do it: use two hooks and fold the snell of one at its middle. Take this fold and place it through the knotted loop of the second hook. This second hook is then run through the first fold, drawn up tightly and secured with a common overhand knot. Make sure you don't overlook tying the overhand knot—many fishermen do and then become perplexed when the rig slides down one of the snells.

Place the completed rig on the main line by forming a simple double-overhand loop about two inches above a suitable bank sinker. This will weigh probably one or two ounces, rarely more. This whole rig-up takes but seconds to accomplish.

As for bait, I don't think there is any better for early March flounder than fresh bank mussel. You may, however, have trouble finding mussel at this time of year. If so, don't despair. Blood or sandworms will turn the trick, as will hard or soft clam. When using worms, pieces about an inch-and-a-half in length are best. Remember to expose the barb about a quarter-inch from the end. Flounder never notice and it ensures easier hooking. When using clam, cut into thin, narrow slices and place on hooks the same was as worms.

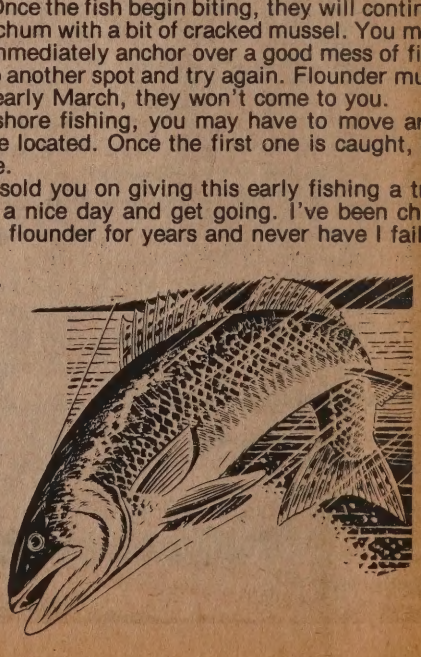
There's no question mussel is good bait, and there's also no question they are a pain in the tail to keep on the hook. Especially is this so when casting from shore. Do your best by running the hook through several times and wrap some around the hook shank. It should stay on long enough to entice a flounder. Change bait frequently because this bait has a tendency to bleach out. Once the fish begin to bite, this isn't so necessary.

Because the water is cold, flounder will not be too active—especially if the day is cloudy. When skiff fishing, seek out the deepest spot you can find and try rousting them out of their mud blanket by bouncing a sash weight or by dragging the anchor over the bottom with the aid of the motor. Once the fish begin biting, they will continue to do so if you chum with a bit of cracked mussel. You may be lucky and immediately anchor over a good mess of fish. If not, move to another spot and try again. Flounder must be hunted. In early March, they won't come to you.

When shore fishing, you may have to move around until fish are located. Once the first one is caught, there will be more.

Have I sold you on giving this early fishing a try? If so, pick out a nice day and get going. I've been chasing early March flounder for years and never have I failed to connect.

Honest.



RECENT RECORD FISH

BY FRED GUARDINEER

A 199½ LB. ATLANTIC BIG EYE TUNA CAUGHT BY ELSIE POUCEL OF THE L.I. BABYLON TUNA CLUB IS A NEW WOMEN'S WORLD RECORD ON 80 LB. TEST LINE...ELSIE GREW UP FISHING WITH HER WELL KNOWN GRANDFATHER CAPT. GUY DAVIS WHO RAN PARTY BOATS FROM BABYLON, L.I.

CAPT. GUY WAS A FAMOUS WEAKFISH SKIPPER WHO CHARTERED PARTIES FOR SUCH NOTABLES AS AL SMITH, JACK DEMPSEY AND BABE RUTH.

JEFF SCHNEIDER OF *"FISH TAXIDERMY UNLIMITED"* MOUNTED HIS OWN WORLD RECORD 20 LB. 1 OZ. BLUEFISH - MEN'S 6 LB. TEST LINE CLASS -. CAUGHT ABOARD HIS BABYLON TUNA CLUB BOAT "LIL HOOKER."

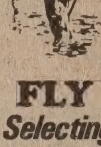
ANOTHER LATE 1977 WORLD RECORD WAS A 344 LB. 12 OZ. JEWFISH BY AL POLOFSKY OF FLORIDA CAUGHT ON 20 LB. TEST LINE. AFTER RECORDING THE STATISTICS, AL "WALKED" HIS FISH FOR CONSIDERABLE TIME IN SHALLOW WATER. THE BIG BASS RECOVERED AND SWAM AWAY... HOPEFULLY OLDER AND WISER IN THE WAYS OF FISHERMEN!

ATLANTIC BLUEFIN TUNA FISHERMEN LOGGED 309 FISH OFF N.Y. STATE IN '77. 46 OVER 300 LBS. EAST OF BLOCK ISLAND. 426 SCHOOL TUNA WERE TAKEN OFF NEW JERSEY AT THE "CANYONS" AND "RIDGES". 1800 GIANTS (OVER 300 LBS.) WERE CAUGHT OFF NEW ENGLAND. 38% BY HANDLINE, 37% BY ROD & REEL, AND 25% WERE HARPOONED.

Although saltwater fly fishing has been going on for many years, it has only been recently that the sport has had a tremendous upsurge in popularity. With the new trend in fishing towards the use of ultra-light equipment, saltwater fly fishing has provided an ultimate thrill for the fisherman.

The subject of fly fishing has been the topic for more books and articles than all other books on all other sports combined. And, as a result of this great interest, fly fishing outfits are now manufactured for anglers planning to catch one pound brook trout, as well as 150 pound tarpon. This article is being written so that the purchase of your saltwater fly fishing outfit can be made with confidence and without confusion.

Surf Side



with Paul Reynolds

FLY RODDING

Selecting Your Equipment

★Part One★

In fly fishing, as opposed to other forms of fishing, you are really casting the line: the fly just happens to be at the end. The fly does not aid the cast in any manner—it is actually a drawback. In order to make successful casts with an outfit of this nature, it is necessary that the line be matched to the rod being used. This will be our start: finding a balanced rod/line combination that is suited to our purposes.

Fly rods designed for use in saltwater are commonly manufactured from either Fiberglas or graphite. Graphite rods offer the novice some advantages. However, their price range—between $150 to $250—would make their purchase at this time quite suspect. On the other hand, the better Fiberglas rods now being manufactured are really very fine fishing instruments that will withstand great punishment and should be available from $30 up.

Virtually all fly rods made by our better manufacturers have a designated weight that is marked just above the butt. These weights commonly range from three to twelve and will appear as 6 wt., 7 wt., 8 wt., etc. This marking indicates which weight line the manufacturer feels should be used with the rod to form a balanced outfit. Rod/line weight combinations for saltwater commonly range from seven to twelve in our area. For the novice, my choice would be a 9 wt. rod. Other knowledgeable fly fishermen would no doubt recommend a 10 wt. rod. My reasons for selecting a 9 wt. rod will be explained when we discuss lines.

Fly rods are also available in various lengths. For saltwater, those between eight and ten feet are normally used. A rod between nine and nine-and-a-half feet will be most satisfactory.

After having carefully selected your rod, your next purchase should be the fly line. Fly lines are manufactured in various ranges, from those which float to those which sink very rapidly. This is done to enable the angler to present his fly at the specific level at which the fish are feeding. Also, fly lines will be available in various tapers. The tapers given to fly lines by the manufacturers are specifically designed to assist the angler in casting. Names such as level, weight-forward, double taper, rocket taper, etc., will appear. The taper which will assist the beginning fly rod enthusiast most is called a shooting taper. This line is approximately thirty feet long and tapers from about one-eighth of an inch at the back-end of a 10 wt. line, to approximately one-sixteenth of an inch at the front end. Naturally, you don't fish with thirty feet of line only. To the larger diameter end of the line is spliced a 100 foot length of shooting line—which in the case of a novice is an inexpensive, fine diameter, level floating line. Monofilament, both round and flat, is to be avoided at the outset as shooting lines. When fishing, you will "false cast" until the full thirty feet of the heavy shooting taper line is beyond the tip. When the actual cast is made, the heavier fly line will pull the thinner diameter shooting line and, this thinner diameter line will actually "shoot" through the guides completing the cast.

When purchasing your shooting taper line, the majority of people acquainted with them feel that it is best to slightly overload your rod. This means that instead of purchasing a 9 wt. saltwater taper line to balance your rod, you should purchase a 10 wt. and slightly overload it. As to the matter of whether your line should be a "floater" or one of the various sinking models, there is no answer other than the fact that you will probably encounter circumstances where you will need each. My personal preference for one line would be a "floater"; if for no other reason than all the fish I have taken during the past season were caught when using a floating line. If you feel quite confident that the fish you will be after will not be surface feeding at the locations you have in mind, by all means go to one of the sinking lines. A moderate current and zero to ten feet of water depth would indicate a fast-sinking line. Greater current or greater water depth would indicate an extra fast-sinking line. When you advance in both skill and interest, experimentation with various sink-tip lines (lines where only portions of the fly line sink to varying degrees) is to be encouraged.

Your next purchase will be your fly reel. Unlike other types of fishing, the fly reel for the great majority of circumstances in our area will be of little use other than to store line. The weakfish, striped bass and bluefish that will be caught most often, simply do not "burn" fifty yards of line off the reel, as do some of the southern species of fish caught by fly rod. Thus, rather than spending $150, one can expect to purchase a reel with a satisfactory drag system for approximately $20.

On your reel, in addition to your shooting taper fly line and your shooting line, you will need backing. This should not be monofilament. About 100 yards of either a good squidding line or Micron in twenty pound test will do nicely. When the final selection of the fly reel is to be made, various sizes will be available. You should select a model which will hold your 100 yards of backing, 100 feet of shooting line and 30 feet of fly line without much, if any, spare room. A reputable salesman will be able to help you—make sure that you will be able to return the model without penalty if not satisfied.

Your backing should be affixed to the spool of your reel with a substantial knot. If you should get a fish that takes you that deep into your backing, your last chance will be the knot you tied. After the backing has been retrieved, the shooting line is attached by means of an Albright knot. This knot should be coated with two coats of Plio-Bond Cement and allowed to dry thoroughly. The Plio-Bond will aid the flow of this joint through the guides when fighting a fish. Any hesitation through the guides will be disastrous. Once the shooting line is on the reel, the fly line will be attached to it by means of a nail knot. Plio-Bond will be applied to this joint in the same manner. Both the Albright knot and the nail knot will be illustrated and explained in detail in the booklet which should accompany your fly line when purchased.

To complete your outfit, you will need both leader and flies. A leader is a monofilament connection between your fly and fly line. For saltwater fly fishing, leaders usually vary between three feet and twelve feet. It is important that the leader continue tapering as does the fly line. Because of this, your leader will be made from various pound test sections of monofilament which, of course, have different diameters. Although many expert fly rodders would advocate the use of longer leaders, I would strongly suggest a leader of five feet in length.

Striped bass, bluefish and weakfish will not spook from using a leader of this length and it is much easier to control. The advocation of long leaders in our area comes from convention and tradition, rather than practicality. Your initial five foot leader should be composed of three pieces of monofilament: a butt section of thirty pound test monofilament thirty inches long; an eighteen inch piece of eighteen pound test monofilament and a twelve inch section of twelve pound mono. This is a very heavy leader—suited to the needs of a beginning fly rodder. The thirty inch butt section is attached to your fly line by means of a blood knot and coated with Plio-Bond cement, as already described. For convenience you should start

with a forty-five inch piece of mono to allow for the nail knot and a perfection loop at the other end. About two inches is needed for the perfection loop, so after the nail is formed you can measure thirty-two inches from it, cut, and then tie the perfection loop. The butt section for convenience should be a permanent attachment to the fly line. At one end of the eighteen pound test line, a perfection loop is tied. At the other end, the twelve pound test line is joined by tying a blood knot. About three inches extra material on each piece is needed to complete the knots.

To complete the leader, join the perfection loops in the usual manner which I am sure you are familiar with. This system allows you to carry spare eighteen and twelve inch sections with you at all times that are pre-tied. Changing leaders in the dark, if necessary, is thus very easy. This method has proven to be the simplest and most convenient.

When your leader is complete (with spares) you will be ready to practice casting. This should be done in an open area, such as a school yard, with no children nearby. You should work progressively from daylight hours into dusk. Your last practice sessions should be completed in the dark. Naturally this is done to duplicate conditions under which you will later be fishing. While it is not necessary to cast beyond forty to fifty feet to catch fish, you will know when you are ready to venture forth.

To complete your outfit, you will need a selection of flies. Three common sources are used to obtain them. These include: buying commercially tied flies available from stores or mail order houses, etc.; finding individual tyers who will be willing to tie specifically what you want; or simply taking the time to learn how to tie flies on your own.

Commercially tied flies, for the most part, are simply not usually available in patterns that are useful. Those with useful patterns bear the characteristics of almost all commercially tied flies in that they are tied very quickly, from inferior grade materials and, in general, are not very durable. Individual tyers who are willing to tie specific patterns of your choice are the best bet for anyone not willing to learn to tie.

They usually tie from the finest materials in a painstaking fashion and will tie until you are satisfied. They regard fly-tying as a true art. Word of mouth usually provides the interested party with several tyers that he could contact. Learning to tie flies for yourself is naturally the best choice: you can tie exactly what you want, with materials of your choice, whenever you need to. Groups and clubs are available to help those interested in learning. Two of the foremost are the Salty Fly Rodders and the Long Island Fly Tyers. Both groups will be more than willing to provide all the information that you request in addition to expert instruction. Also, most public libraries have an excellent section of fly tying, as well as related books that will more than likely be of great interest. These sources, as well as schools which provide adult education classes in fly tying, should provide the beginner with more than enough information.

In closing, let me point out that for those seriously interested, the careful selection and purchase of materials will take little time. Becoming familiar with all the materials selected is a trademark of a good fisherman. And, after having spent some time practicing your casting, you'll be ready for your first trip. Next week in Part II, we'll discuss that trip.

EDITORIAL:

(Continued from page 4.)

concurrence. Our second area of concern: DEC officials have repeatedly indicated that they consider themselves regulators and enforcers, not researchers. Yet, one provision of the bill calls for marine research "to carry out and further the purposes, policy and provisions of this title." We hope that the DEC and its Commissioner will agree.

Our third area of concern is the Citizen's Advisory Council. The bill provides for an eight-member group to be appointed by the Commissioner. We have some definite ideas on this. First, we believe that the Commissioner should not appoint the Council members. In light of our suggestions about the Commissioner's emergency powers, we believe that it would be best if the Commissioner is relieved of the opportunity to "stack the deck." Thus, appointment by the Governor might be a better alternative. We also believe that the New York Sport Fishing Council should be guaranteed one representative on that Council.

The Fisherman feels that Bill S. 5704 and A. 8417 represents important and significant legislative action. Although we have some reservations, the bill could easily be amended to ease the fears of many citizens without changing the meaning of the proposed law. In spite of these reservations, the Fisheries Management Act is the first major piece of legislation that we know of that makes a strong statement about the need to conserve all of our marine resources. It also makes a very strong statement about the importance of recreational use of fisheries resources. This is very important because it recognizes the economic, social, and cultural value of recreational fishing in the State of New York.

Thus, if portions of this legislation are amended, we would support its passage in the State Senate.

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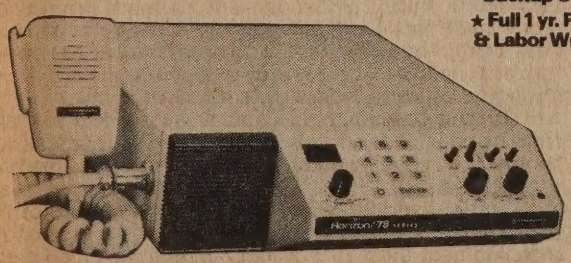

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The Graphite Fishing Rod

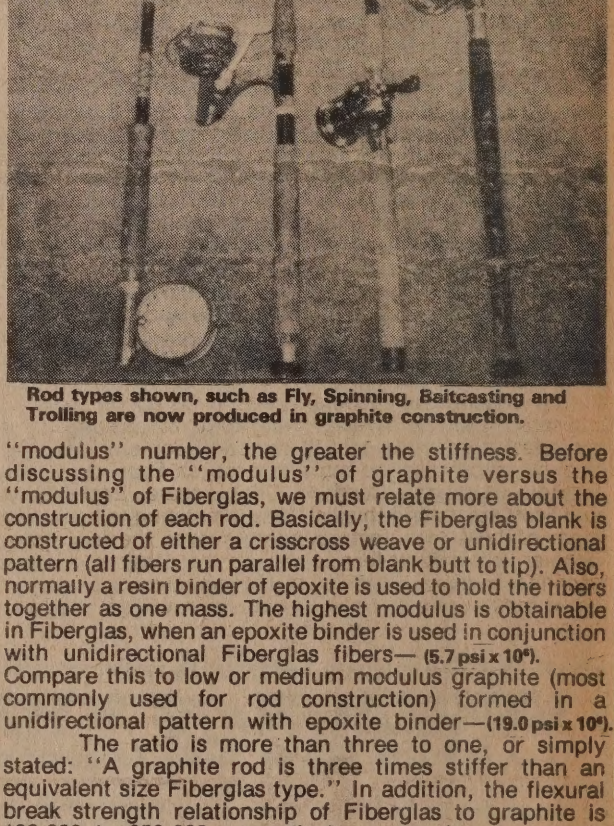
by Don Avondolio

Fishing rod designs, their materials and types of constructions have improved considerably, compared with the originals developed early in this century. The first materials used were tonkin and calcutta cane (bamboo), followed by tubular and solid steel, beryllium copper, and several compositions of Fiberglas. Fiberglas dominates the rod market today, and as a result of modern technology, manufacturing techniques have reached a degree of perfection, producing rods of high quality for the price. Even computers are being used by some rod manufacturers to develop and improve rod actions of different degrees.

Casting and handling quality, hook setting ability, fish fighting performance, and durability (the ability to withstand tough usage and environmental conditions), are all good factors to consider when selecting a rod. Keeping all these factors in mind when you are selecting a rod is important, but I find that the manufacturers advertising data also strongly influences rod selection. Whenever a new rod style, action, or construction type appears on the market, the serious angler is sure to take interest in the product. Naturally, rod manufacturers are thoroughly aware of the attraction of a new product, and in their competitive quest to keep ahead in the tackle business they have introduced (in the past few years) a new rod material: graphite. I am sure that most active fishermen have heard of this material, but few have discovered the real advantages of this rod construction. Being an avid fisherman and also compelled to fly rodding, I felt that more data on this material should be brought into view. In this article I shall try to relate construction, specifications, and advantages from a layman's standpoint for informational and evaluation purposes. I will also include opinions and facts derived from personal contact with this rod material by either myself or from fellow fishermen.

Typical Construction: The synthetic fabrication of this rod material begins with a continuous length of synthetic polyacrylonitrile (a type of polyester fiber). This fiber is oxidized at 300°, carbonized at 1500°, then graphitized at 3000° in complete absence of oxygen—the resultant fibers are as small as .0003 inches thick. As many as 10,000 are made up into yarn lengths of up to 5000 feet. The fibers are held together by epoxy resins in a flat strip form. Sections of this strip form are cut and wrapped around a cylindrical mandrel (shaft) under controlled heat and pressure. After contour-shaped by a heat shrink process, the rod sections are heat cured in an enclosed oven. Following curing, the mandrel is removed and guides, reel seat, etc., are hand assembled. Incidentally, similar graphite fibers are currently being used in the aerospace industry in conjunction with boron, to formulate structures which require high strength with low weight, rigidity characteristics. These graphite fibers are also known in the sporting goods industry, and used in the manufacturing of items such as golf club shafts, tennis rackets, archery bows, skis, and bicycle frames.

Specifications: Graphite specs are uniquely attractive to the design engineer looking for a high strength material with lightweight characteristics. For our specific application, let's compare graphite to a Fiberglas rod material. The "modulus" of a material refers to a relative number that determines the degree of elasticity (or flexibility) when comparing one material to another. The higher the



Rod types shown, such as Fly, Spinning, Baitcasting and Trolling are now produced in graphite construction.

"modulus" number, the greater the stiffness. Before discussing the "modulus" of graphite versus the "modulus" of Fiberglas, we must relate more about the construction of each rod. Basically, the Fiberglas blank is constructed of either a crisscross weave or unidirectional pattern (all fibers run parallel from blank butt to tip). Also, normally a resin binder of epoxite is used to hold the fibers together as one mass. The highest modulus is obtainable in Fiberglas, when an epoxite binder is used in conjunction with unidirectional Fiberglas fibers— **(5.7 psi x 10^6)**. Compare this to low or medium modulus graphite (most commonly used for rod construction) formed in a unidirectional pattern with epoxite binder—**(19.0 psi x 10^6)**.

The ratio is more than three to one, or simply stated: "A graphite rod is three times stiffer than an equivalent size Fiberglas type." In addition, the flexural break strength relationship of Fiberglas to graphite is 160,000 to 250,000 respectively, presenting a strength ratio of more than 1½ times.

What do these specs mean to the fisherman? Well, we can conclude that if a graphite blank is made of the same length, diameter, taper and thickness of a Fiberglas rod, that the graphite rod would be three times stiffer than the glass rod. Also that the graphite rod has almost two times the flex break strength. The stiffness is unacceptable, especially for fly rod use where rod action is paramount, so less graphite fiber is used for a standard action, resulting in a lighter, slimmer rod. Therefore, graphite rod manufacturers produce rods that are one-third smaller in diameter and at least twenty-five percent lighter in weight compared to equivalent action Fiberglas rods.

Another interesting and related test was conducted by the Fenwick Corporation in order to determine the durability of a rod or its life of consistent casting action. Constant flexing eventually breaks down the fiber structure of any material. A Fiberglas rod machine flexed 290,291 times broke, while a graphite rod flexed 1,260,125

times did **not** break at conclusion of the test. It could be said that the graphite rod flexed at least four times more than the Fiberglas rod of comparable action and design quality.

Advantages: What advantages can we as fishermen expect from this rod material? More advantages will be appreciated by the fly rodder, as line control is a strong factor of rod action. Increased casting distance—a convenience for freshwater fishing and more important for saltwater—is accomplished by increased line speed. The faster the line speed, the faster the line travels on the forward cast, the more distance will be covered. Increased line speed is a result of the quick recovery of the graphite rod. The rod dampens motion quickly; or another way of describing this feature is that most unnecessary oscillations or waves are removed by the graphite stiffness characteristic. Tight loops (a definite asset in fly casting) are easily formed on the back cast by quick rod recovery.

Developing a feel for the graphite rod is important to obtain the full advantage of this unique material. As one example, most fishermen in their attempt to drive the hook barb home in a fish's mouth, will lift the rod using a powerful stroke. This motion and force is not necessary, as the stiffness feature common to graphite rods imparts a force requiring only a light, quick lift of the rod tip to accomplish the same result.

As a result of graphite rods being shorter and thinner compared to Fiberglas types of equivalent action and weight, the mass of the shaft is brought closer to the reel seat (or grip) achieving better balance with a lighter feel for the caster. During long periods of continuous casting, this feature can be an important advantage. Also, the smaller, thinner profile offers less wind resistance during the cast—a feature sometimes overlooked.

One outstanding feature reported by graphite rod owners, is the rod sensitivity. The rod tip is extremely responsive to a fish strike, even by the slightest movement. A sudden change of line direction or the least unusual resistance during line retrieve is instantly telegraphed to the rod tip, through the rod shaft to the fisherman's hand.

The sense of popularity about graphite rods is indicated by the ever-growing list of graphite rod manufacturers in the past three years. Some of the most popular, reputable rod makers, such as Fenwick, Orvis, Lamiglas, Leonard, Cortland, Shakespeare, Eagle Claw, and Scott are among this list. It is interesting to know that many of these manufacturers have chosen the fairly new, popular non-metallic ferrule, made from either interwoven graphite or glass construction. Manufacturers state that these rods offer a one-piece type action wtih a two-piece type design. Competing with the latter ferrule design is the metal type of nickel silver, which is durable and creates almost insignificant weight increase.

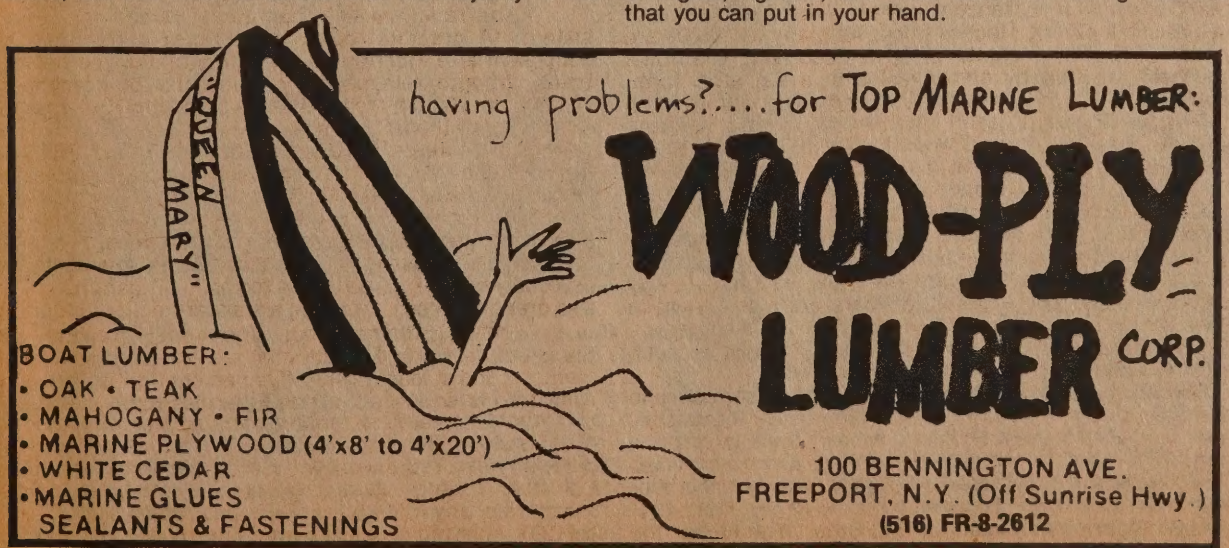
Graphite blanks **do** offer weight savings of significant nature, but one must remember that the majority of rod weight is contributed by hardware (guides, tiptop, reel seat). It would be wise to choose rod hardware proportional to the blank size and weight when building a rod initially.

As a reference in comparing present marketed rods of Fiberglas versus graphite, I would like to describe several types and their particular weight savings. For fly rods, freshwater trout system 5 or 6, approximately one ounce weight saving is appreciated on a finished rod of graphite, while the larger saltwater system 10 or 11, one-and-a-quarter to one-and-three-eighths ounces would be saved. A 10½ foot surf stick constructed from graphite weighs nineteen ounces, whereas an equivalent action and size Fiberglas rod weighs twenty-three ounces. Bait casters using a freshwater bass type stick would save approximately one-half to three-quarter ounces, based on a size five-and-a-half foot rod, eight to fifteen pound line, and three-eighths to three-quarter ounce lure. Rod weight savings mentioned are **average** and demonstrate significantly what can be expected from graphite.

Conclusion: Both high quality Fiberglas and impregnated bamboo rods will be around for a long time, but keep in mind that graphite offers new, unique advantages. The one major disadvantage is price. Graphite material construction is new, expensive and must be competitive to reduce prices significantly. For example, a completely assembled average, discounted system 5 or 6 rod, costs about $60, while a system 10 or 11 rod goes for anywhere from $60 to $100; a bait caster or spin rod assembled, costs between $50 to $100. Fishermen must consider the advantage of using this rod from a personal viewpoint: if I choose this rod, what will it offer **me** in return? If you decide to choose a fly, spin, bait caster, or surf type, choose your manufacturer discriminately, and actually try out the rod action before purchasing your choice. Evaluate the one-piece action feel; the durability before selecting a ferrule type. I personally favor the non-metallic style ferrule over the metal type, because of the difference in casting performance. At first sight, this rod may appear smaller and more fragile, but I have not heard of any breaking under normal handling and use. The break strength statistics mentioned previously should sustain this statement. Most well-known manufacturers do offer a guarantee replacement on breakage under normal use.

If economy is your objective and you're handy at rod building, buy a blank from a reputable rod maker, or tackle dealer and save yourself as much as fifty percent of the cost of a finished, assembled rod.

I think most fishermen, especially graphite rod owners, will agree that this material is here to stay and I would advise watching the prices, as even now they have decreased ten to twenty percent from last year's models. If you're considering buying a new rod, evaluate your objectives, and remember that the graphite rod is the strongest, lightest, and most sensitive fishing machine that you can put in your hand.



TRAILERING

☆PART ONE☆

by Capt. Charlie Soares

Four wheelers may do it dirtier; divers may do it deeper, but well-informed boaters and fishermen never do it on a ramp. These references are not directed at your love life, but rather to your skills (or lack of them) in the area of boat launching and retrieving.

With annual increases in the number of boaters and fishermen, most of whom trailer various types of rigs, growing pressures are very obvious at the launching ramps which have failed to keep pace with the needs of the various sportsmen. For those and numerous other reasons, it is important for us to make the most of the ramps that are available. This article offers some well-intentioned advice and guidance that should help to promote good manners, well-honed skills, and hopefully some good sportsmanship.

Many do's and don'ts could be cited as paramount in trailering, but my pet peeve—and one that could get you an earful or a fat lip—is tying up a ramp with tasks that should have been done at home or off to the side while waiting your turn to launch.

There are too many types of different rigs to attempt to get into specifics about each and every one. What we are going to do is show you how we launch and retrieve a twenty-three foot, 3,500 pound+ rig single-handedly in fifteen inch boots and not get our feet wet (unless some "pilgrim" comes flying through the launching area throwing a huge wake).

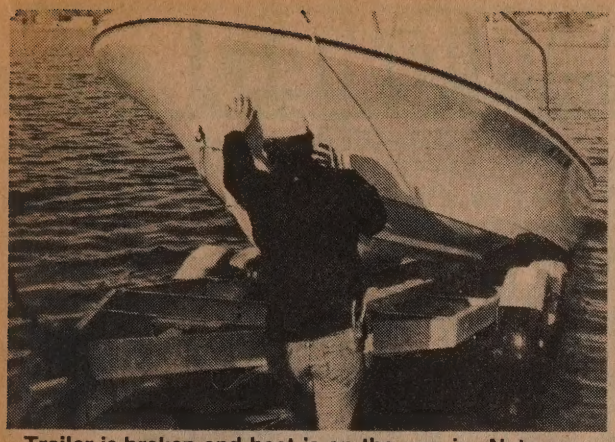
The very basic rig should have safety chains, a heavy-duty nylon hull strap, and trailer lights—preferably those that have been removed from the rear and either mounted on the fenders or on the hull lift rings via quick disconnect plugs to keep them out of the water. A good wheel chock with line attached to the bumper of the towing vehicle will keep the whole rig from slipping into the drink and save a lot of extra steps. A good lock on the hitch acts as a deterrent to amateur thieves and a spare tire and axle jack salvage many threatened jaunts.

I highly recommend a spare set of wheel bearings and a tool kit for installation being stowed away in the towing vehicle in case of need. They don't do much good at home when you break down on the road! For over the road safety, I employ a heavy duty stainless steel-coated cable with a large toggle snap to supplement the power winch snap which I back off once the boat is retrieved, taking the constant pressure off the gears. The above I consider vital necessities. My rig has the benefits of other innovations from years of experience and observation. An added bonus—valuable tips passed on by my peers—all of these factors add up to make my statement about launching and retrieving my rig single-handedly no boast, unless the weather is bad...but we'll get into that in Part II.

Let's get to the water.

Pull off to the side of the ramp and wait your turn. Make sure all the items are on board and the boat is set to launch with exception of removal of winch and safety snaps.

Let your equipment work for you. Winches are not for retrieving only. A simple rig with bronze roller and welded eye on trailer tilt mechanism, allows you to let the boat slide off "YOUR WELL LUBRICATED ROLLERS."



Trailer is broken and boat is on the way in. Note rear wheels under water at bearings. A necessity at some ramps and with larger rigs. Bearing buddies are a must for trouble-free season.

Whoa—Make sure the line is long enough, but not too long. Pull the boat off to the side or beach if feasible, allowing others to launch.

Upon arriving at the ramp, first determine your launching sequence and procedure, then pull to a place out of the way of other rigs and begin removal of all applicable gear—plate, lights, towing strap, etc.—and make sure all drain plugs are in place. Get your gear aboard. Don't wait till you are on the ramp to stow the food, the drinks, the ice, the rods, the bait and other such necessities, as it eats up valuable time with no others waiting.

Do not and I repeat **don't** remove the winch or safety straps. I have seen too many rigs launched on the macadam for this very reason. Remember, "haste makes waste" and what a waste a shiny new Fiberglas rig makes when dumped on the hard stuff! My son, Peter, has seen grown men cry and added a few choice words to his vocabulary on such occasions. Back the vehicle onto the ramp, putting the boat into a position enabling you to launch without hitting it on shallow ramps or going too deeply to cause hull pressure to make the trailer's tilt mechanism useless. Disconnect the winch and safety snap and do not attempt to use the winch cable to pay out the rig. Use a suitable line of adequate length to pull the boat back to the side of the ramp once she clears the trailer. A length of bronze or stainless half-round on the bow of the boat saves the hull from abuse while resting on the ramp. The pulpit on my rig makes a great lever for moving and lifting the hull onto the beach while I drive the towing vehicle and trailer to a parking space, which these days, is becoming a scarcity.

In the next issue we will discuss and illustrate retrieving. In the meantime, we solicit any suggestions you may have.

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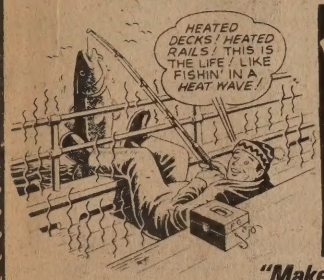

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SOUTH SHORE Fishing Report

MONTAUK

Capt. Paul Forsberg of the **Viking Starship** reports Saturday's codfish catch was from 75 to 80 cod taken off Block Island. The pool fish was taken by George Schuman with a 40-plus pound killer cod. Sunday's fishing, also at Block Island, was exceptionally good, with over 250 cod coming over the rail. High hook was 12 cod for one skilled angler. The pool was taken by a 20 lb. cod. Paul says there are loads and loads of sand eels in the water which translates to a very probable dynamite cod and pollock spring, so shine up those diamond jigs.

CAPTREE

Capt. Neil of the **Lady Ann** called to say that most of the ice is gone from the bays and creeks around Captree and the Inlet, with just some floes remaining which are moving out. Neil says that something brand new this year for the area will be done on the Lady Ann, his Captree charter boat and on the Casey Lee, his Bay Shore open boat, in that they will have free foul weather gear aboard should anyone require same. This will keep all aboard nice and dry.

N.Y. BIGHT Fishing Report

FREEPORT

The **Starstream II** reports very good whiting fishing Saturday and Sunday working the Mud Hole area, fish running from 1 to 4 lbs., with all anglers bagging good catches.

The **Captain Al** also enjoyed very good whiting fishing both Saturday and Sunday at the Mud Hole, with fares mostly filling up 5 gallon pails full of whiting. Fish ran from 1 to 4 lbs., with a lot of 3 and 4 pounders right in there. The weather was good, particularly on Saturday and the fish were coming in steadily both days.

Happy Birthday greetings to Dottie Berkowitz of the **Starstream II** who will hit birthday number 75 on March 8.

ISLAND PARK

Steve Weitzen and Joe Masone, both of Tournament Anglers fished open bottom on Saturday in 100 feet of water, 170 degrees out of Jones Inlet on Joe's boat, Deborah, with a very good catch of 14 cod, running 20

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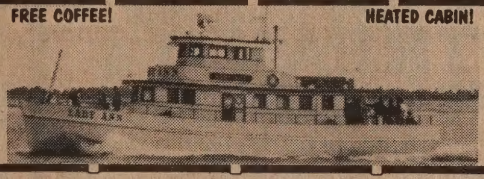

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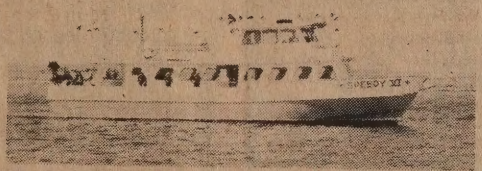

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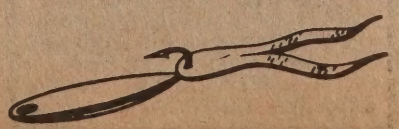

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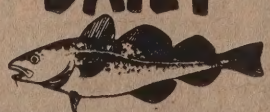

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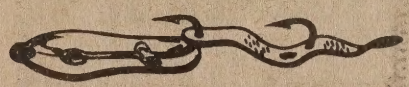

to 40 lbs., taken on clam baits with light chumming. These were all males.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

The **Eagle** reports very good whiting fishing both Saturday and Sunday at the Greek Wreck, which is roughly five miles south of the BA at the Mud Hole. Fish ran up to 4 lbs., to the tune of 40 to 60 per man.

Captain Joe Miller on the **Atomic II** confirmed this by telling us that there was good, good, good whiting fishing both Saturday and Sunday and also on his night trips, all at the Mud Hole a little south of the BA. Whiting ran up to 4 lbs., and average catches were 20 to 60 per man.

The **Blue Sea III** reported that roughly ten minutes south of the BA both Saturday and Sunday, their fares enjoyed very good whiting fishing, though Saturday being calmer was a little better. They picked away all weekend and anglers had anywhere from a five gallon bucket to a bucket-and-a-half full of whiting, fish up to 4 lbs. Same area, at the Greek Wreck.

Captain Tommy on the **Pilot II** was also in on this weekend whiting fishing in the same area and saw his fares walk off the boat with anywhere from 30 to 50 whiting each. Tommy says that he will be starting for flounders this weekend.

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Striped Bass Pin or Bluefish Pin. All metal. Gold or Silver finish. Great for caps, jackets, tie, car/boat dash. Send $4.95 Ck. or M.O. to: P. Miller, 150 Babylon Tpke., Merrick, NY. 11566.

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Fish Talk: BERGALLS

(Continued from page 8.)

little or no commercial value.

ENVIRONMENTAL VALUE REMAINS HIGH! Good old Mother Nature does not agree with us fishermen. All of the creatures in her domain that can adapt and survive are valued. Each and every species plays an important role in what used to be called "the Balance of Nature" but which today is referred to as a stable ecosystem. The omnivorous habits of the bergall helps to keep barnacles and certain echinoderms in check and as scavengers they clean up the mess left by other species. So next time you catch one, release it gently because it is making a contribution towards a more stable world for you and I.

HERE'S A BETTER IDEA! We took a trip with a captain one time who asked us to save the bergalls for him. He filleted them and he swore that they were great eating. Why not try a few of the bigger specimens on the dinner table and release the little guys?

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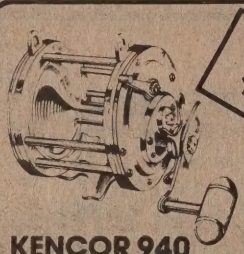

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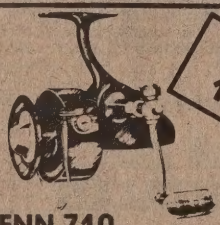

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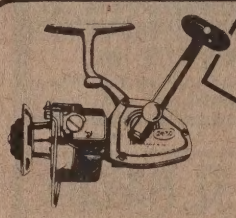

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